

To: Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]
From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 6:22:57 PM
Subject: NEED IMMEDIATE APPROVAL

After the press conference, time TBD we will send this out to press from HQ. JIC and Regions 6/9 should follow suit.

After JIC approves, I will send to EOC.

I think OCIR will likely want to notify congressionals too.

SUBJECT: Statement from EPA Administrator to Regional Administrators RE: ongoing field work at mines

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy today sent the below directive to Regional Administrators regarding ongoing field work at mines:

While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case. We are in the process of initiating an independent assessment by a sister federal agency or another external entity to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site and to identify any immediate threats and consider appropriate response actions.

Melissa J. Harrison

Press Secretary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: (202) 564-8421

Mobile: (202) 697-0208

Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov